reforms and regenerating industrial growth. The various reform measures are expected to have a positive effect on the growth of the economy.

Waiver of Dues of Orissa

649. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Government of Orissa has requested the Central Government for waiver of Rs. 68 crores towards charges for airdropping of food material for the marooned people during the last super cyclone and floods as the State is not in a position to pay this amount;

(b) whether the State Government has also requested the Central Government for bearing their share of matching grant under the Crop Insurance Scheme; and

(c) if so, what is the status of these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Government of Orissa had requested for waiver of Rs. 68.74 crores towards air dropping charges of food materials during super cyclone of October 1999 and during the floods of 2001.

(b) The State Government in their Memorandum on Drought 2002, submitted to Government of India had *inter-alia* requested the Centre to provide Rs. 27 crores towards the State's share of the Crop Insurance Scheme compensation for the current year.

(c) Keeping in view, the funds released to Government of Orissa under the National Fund for Calamity Relief in the wake of super cyclone, it has only been found feasible to release an amount of Rs. 16.41 crores to Government of Orissa towards air-dropping charges for food materials during floods of 2001. This amount has been released from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) to the State Government.

Regarding the assistance for the States Crop Insurance Scheme, as the balance available in the Calamity Relief Fund of the State, covered the loss on account of Drought 2002 as approved by the High Level Committee, no assistance is releasable under NCCF on this account.